Dear Bud,

7/12/75

This is for your information and I believe protection only. I want Jim to know about the content but I do not think it serves your interest for copies to be kicking around so I am asking him to read it and when he sees you give it to you. I believe your interest, not mine, requires this restriction.

The one exception is Bill. I do think you should discuss this with him but I would expect him to discuss it with you and Jim only.

Let me begin by being as explicit as I can: despite all you have talked yourself into, I do not want you to get into trouble and I believe the possibility is very real.

I'm sorry that this means telling you about one you appear to have trusted when you should not have. However, I remember your mentioning this to me maybe three years ago, I think Bob Smith did but I'm not sure and I've recently met with the fraud.

This is what happened. Those names I do not give you I cannot because I've been asked to respect a confidential relationship. However, I believe that in time and from Hugh McDonald you will hear them. I did ask to be released from this confidential relationship yesterday and was refused despite the fact that there is nothing to keep McDonald from talking about it. If and when he does, then of course I will be under no restraint.

John Starr, who is no stranger to me having failed to get Dell to sign the $35,000 contract we had verbally with Dell for Oswald in New Orleans (and thus I did not get the $31,500 that was mine) and has sent me no accounting for Whitewash II from Dell since the first one, introduced McDonald's book and new ghost, Geoffrey Bocca, to a publisher whose counsel is an old friend of mine.

They asked me to act as a consultant on this book. When I agreed, they sent me copies of it and of other materials.

I did not have to get very far into the stuff before I knew all I had to know. I did read it all and I thereafter checked with people who I knew from earlier correspondence knew McDonald. I also happen to have known other things, by coincidence. Checking my files confirmed what I recalled.

I was present at a meeting with McDonald and his gang and this publisher and his lawyer. This was about three weeks ago.

At the meeting I did nothing to interfere with any deal the publisher might have wanted to make. I had met with him briefly the night before and for longer that evening and night with the lawyer. The publisher has to this moment not spoken or written to me since we had lunch following the meeting. I left that lunch with the impression that he was going to make an offer of a nature that was not included in my responsibilities to McDonald, however.

My belief is that if he made this offer it was insane. In any event, from other sources, I know that either it was not made or not accepted because there has been another deal in which I was not involved and as a consequence I was again involved.

McDonald and his so-called book are worse than transparent frauds. The book can't exist in anything like its present form without being actionable. There are identifiable characters in it under false names, too. You knew one.

The book opens with any involvement of you if he has not sent you a copy. That rubbish the publisher checked out on his own and told me about it. It involves the New York Review and an affidavit. I see no need to carry this part further in what others will read but you should know that I am not alone with this knowledge. Insofar as you are concerned all this aspect can mean may be personal embarrassment. I do not think there will be even this and I certainly am going to do nothing.

This gross manufacture is so poorly contrived there is no single part of it that can survive examination after the beginning. It is, without doubt, the very worst of this species of worse than trash that I have ever seen. If you want specifics I'll provide them. I'd prefer not to take the time but if you think your interest requires this I will take the time.

If the total - even physical - impossibility of what is represented as fact in the books is not more than enough this common grafter McDonald added more in person and with plenty of witnesses.

What makes all of this a real problem is that there is fraud.

Part of what makes me fear this can be a serious problem for you is that McDonald has told others with whom he has dealt that you represent him. I have no independent knowledge and I want none. I do know that there was a time when in the recent past you were phoned about this. I have a full enough account from a witness. Long before any of this came to me as a consultation.

Sometime prior to about four days ago there was a deal for this book, with a man named Zacharias. I understand he has something called Zebra publishing company and that it is in San Frnacisco. I do know that with Zacharias McDonald spent two days recently in an effort to sell ancillary rights.

They happen again to have picked a place where I have many friends including people who visit me with some regularity. The last time was only last week. So, I was again consulted. When this happens I have no choice and I do tell the truth. I also produce fact and stand behind it.

I do not believe the deal for the ancillary rights will go through. Unless I am consulted again I have no interest except for the great opportunities the actual publishing of this book could have for me personally. The more it is promoted the greater my personal benefit.

If the deal is rejected and if there are specifics, then Zebra will have some very real problems and so will everyone with any kind of McDonald/book connection because it will be apparent to Zebra that despite McDonald's skilled lying they have been defrauded. McDonald thinks he has been clever about this but he hasn't been. There is absolutely no doubt in my non-lawyer's mind that he has crossed the line.

I have been paid as a consultant and I am quite prepared to stand behind everything I have said. I was <u>twice</u> a consultant. I have not yet received the second payment but there was an agreement and I will be paid.

Other of your associates are up to other insanities. If you want specifics about the newest of Popkin I'll provide them. He was to have been in Washington this week so if no other way I presume you know. If your stomach isn't churning he has been holding out on you. Again my knowledge comes only from friends who have taken the initiative in seeking my advice. You have seen nothing in public about this but I was consulted long before his recent trip here. One reporter caught Popkin in what he calls deliberate deception so while I have no knowledge I presume there was a strong reaction out west. This part had nothing to do with me and I learned about it only later.

Because I can't do what I really want to do I have made no effort to learn whether anything lies behind all this really sick and irrational stuff. There is a consistency in it of which you should be aware. To this minute I have seen not one thing that does not have a self-destruct built in. Knowing something about commercialisers, whores and the irrational of ambition I go no farthar. I have not tried to learn if any of this is inspired. Nor have I taken time Jim doesn't have to give him details I have obtained.

If I had not know that the CIA had files on both of us I'd not have recommended that the Ray evidentiary hearing begin with the moves I presented to you and Bill prior to the Ray evidentiary hearing. This is one of the reasons I told Jim to offer me to go over what the CIA has given you. This can take two forms, my reading it in your office and telling you what I can make notes on and see or my going over copies with care and then writing you about it. I am certain there have to be some documents from which some identifications have been removed. I likewise am confident that I can fill in some of the gaps. It also is my belief that among the other considerations is the strong probability that I can link some of this to Henry Haile.

Sincerely,